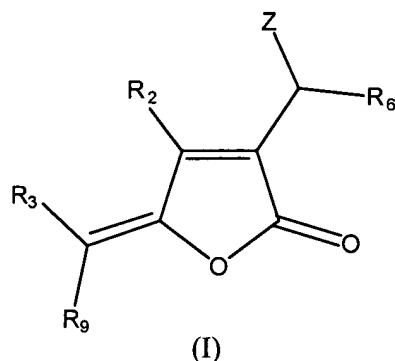


**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (I):



wherein R<sub>6</sub> is H, OH, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>25</sub> alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently or both H or halogen;

R<sub>9</sub> is halogen;

Z is independently selected from R<sub>6</sub>, OH, alkoxy, halogen, OC(O)R<sub>6</sub>, =O, amine, azide, thiol, mercaptoalkyl, alkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl, SC(O)R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OS(O)R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, NHC(O)R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>10</sub> = NR<sub>4</sub> or NHR<sub>4</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> is OH, alkyl, alkoxy, poly(ethylene glycol), alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is H, OH, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

provided that:

when R<sub>6</sub> is propyl, R<sub>2</sub> is Br, R<sub>3</sub> is H or Br and R<sub>9</sub> is Br, then Z is other than H, OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, or OH;

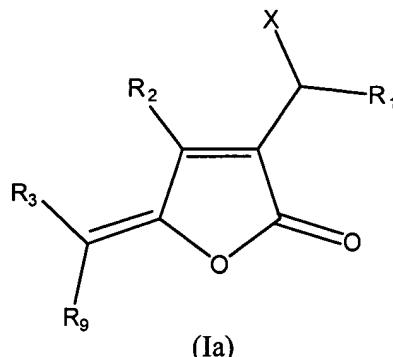
when R<sub>6</sub> is propyl, R<sub>2</sub> is Br, R<sub>3</sub> is H and R<sub>9</sub> is I, then Z is other than OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>, or OH;

when R<sub>6</sub> is propyl, R<sub>2</sub> is Br, R<sub>3</sub> is H and R<sub>9</sub> is Cl, then Z is other than OH;

when R<sub>6</sub> is propyl, R<sub>2</sub> is H, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are Br, then Z is other than H; and

when  $R_6$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_9$  is Cl and  $Z$  is H, then  $R_3$  is other than Cl.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (Ia):



wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen,  $C_4$ - $C_{25}$  alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

$X$  is a halogen, OH,  $OC(O)R_{11}$  or =O;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

$R_9$  is halogen;

$R_{11}$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

provided that:

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H or Br and  $R_9$  is Br, then  $X$  is other than  $OC(O)CH_3$  or OH;

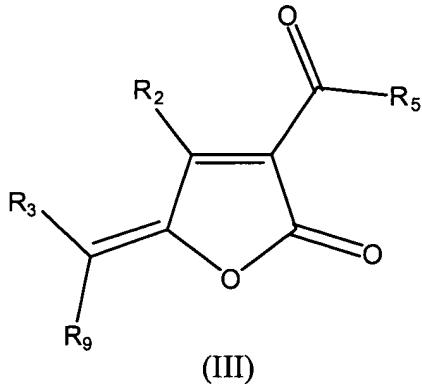
when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H and  $R_9$  is I, then  $X$  is other than  $OC(O)CH_3$  or OH;

and

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H,  $R_9$  is Cl, then  $X$  is other than OH.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (III):



(III)

wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

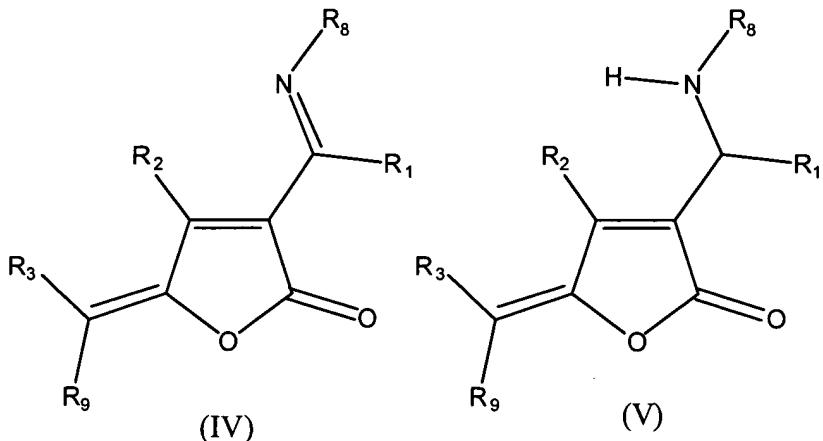
$R_5$  is OH or the same as  $R_1$ ;

$R_9$  is halogen;

$R_1$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, ~~and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (IV) or (V):



(IV)

(V)

wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

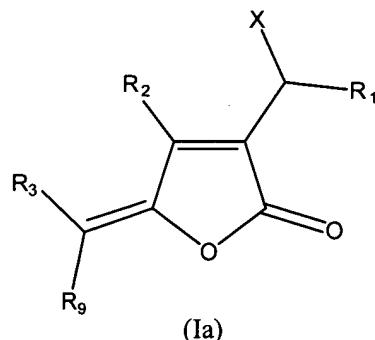
$R_9$  is halogen;

$R_8$  is OH,  $NHR_1$ ,  $NHC(X)NH_2$ ,  $NHC(X)NHR_1$  or  $R_1$  where  $X$  is O, S or  $NR_1$ ; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched

chain, and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for forming a compound of formula (Ia), comprising reacting a fimbrolide with a halogenating agent and/or an oxygenating agent to form the compound of formula (Ia):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>25</sub> alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

X is a halogen, OH, OC(O)R<sub>11</sub> or =O;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently or both hydrogen or halogen; and

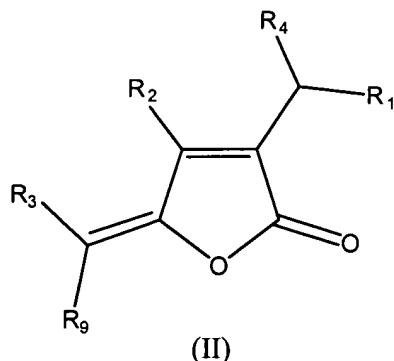
R<sub>9</sub> is halogen; and

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 6 wherein the halogenating agent is selected from the group N-bromosuccinimide, N-chlorosuccinimide, N-iodosuccinimide, bromine, cupric bromide, and phenyltrimethylammonium perbromide.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 6 wherein the oxygenating agent is selected from lead tetraacetate, Rose Bengal/oxygen gas, hydrogen peroxide/vanadium pentoxide, selenium dioxide, and 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A method for forming a compound of formula II, comprising displacing and/or functionalizing a halogen or oxygen substituent in the side chain of a fimbrolide compound by treating the fimbrolide compound with a nucleophile or an electrophile to form the compound of formula (II):



wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen,  $C_4-C_{25}$  alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

$R_9$  is halogen; and

$R_4$  is selected from halogen, amine, azide, hydroxyl, thiol, alkyl, alkoxy, mercaptoalkyl, alkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl,  $OC(O)R_4$ ,  $R_{11}$ ,  $SC(O)R_4R_{11}$ ,  $OS(O)R_4R_{11}$ ,  $OS(O)_2R_4R_{11}$ ,  $NHC(O)R_4R_{11}$ ,  $OC(O)NHR_4NHR_{11}$ , or  $=O$ ; and  
 $R_{11}$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, ~~and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic~~;

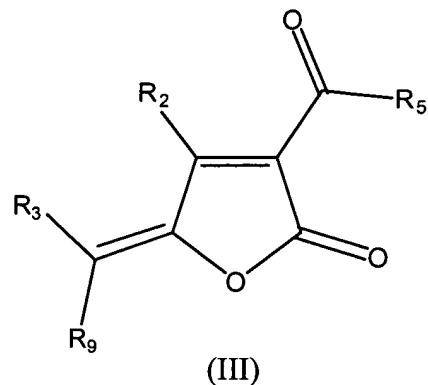
~~provided that when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  are Cl, then  $R_4$  is other than H.~~

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 9 wherein the nucleophile is selected from metal halides, water, organic metal carboxylate, organic alcohols, dimethyl sulfoxide, and organonitrile/acid catalyst, and silver triflate.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 9 wherein the electrophile is selected from organic acids, isocyanates, acid halides or active acylating agents such as carbonyl imidazoles or anhydrides (including activated hydrophilic PEG acids, PEG acid chlorides, PEG-oxycarbonylimidazoles and PEG-isocyanates) organic sulfonyl chlorides, and diethylaminosulfur trifluoride.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for forming a compound of formula (III), comprising reacting an hydroxyl substituent in the side chain of a fimbrolide with an oxidising

agent to form the compound in accordance with formula (III):



wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R<sub>5</sub> is OH or the same as R<sub>1</sub>;

R<sub>9</sub> is halogen;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

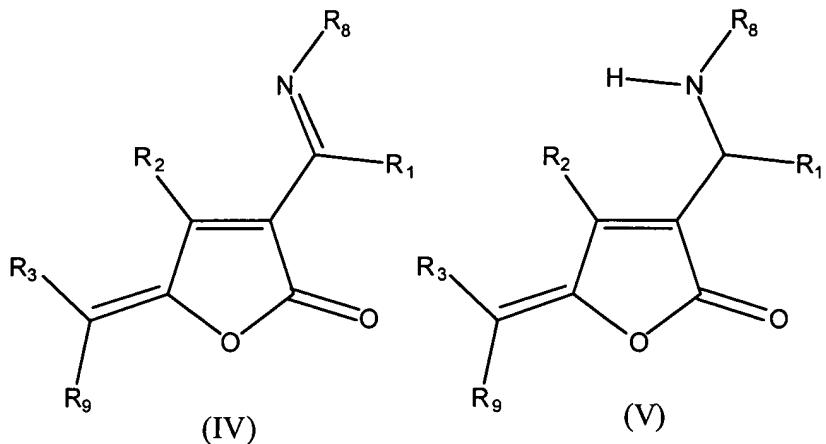
wherein each constituent substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, ~~and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic.~~

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 12 wherein the oxidising agents is selected from the group consisting of acid dichromate reagents in any form which may be free or polymer supported, chromium trioxide, manganese dioxide, potassium permanganate, selenium dioxide, ceric ammonium nitrate, ruthenium tetraoxide, and hot nitric acid.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein the acid dichromate agent is selected from the group consisting of a Jones reagent, pyridinium chlorochromate, and pyridinium dichromate.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method for forming a compound of formula (IV) or (V), comprising reacting an aldehyde or ketone substituent in the side chain -C(O)R<sub>5</sub> of compound (III) with an amine to form a compound of formula (IV) or (V),

wherein formula (IV) and (V) are represented by:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

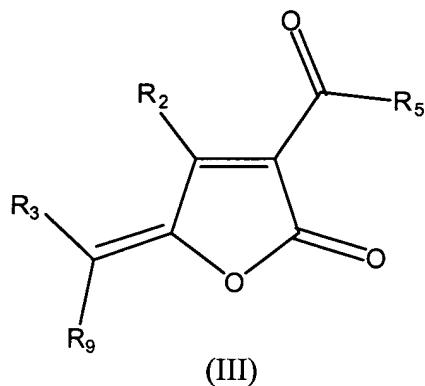
$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R<sub>9</sub> is halogen;

$R_8$  is OH,  $NHR_1$ ,  $NHC(X)NH_2$ ,  $NHC(X)NHR_1$  or  $R_1$  where X is O, S or  $NR_1$ ; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

and wherein formula (III) is represented by:



wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

$R_5$  is OH or the same as  $R_1$ ; and

$R_9$  is halogen.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein the amine is selected from hydroxyl amine hydrochloride, alkyl and aryl hydrazines, alkyl or aryl amine, optionally in the presence of a reducing agent.

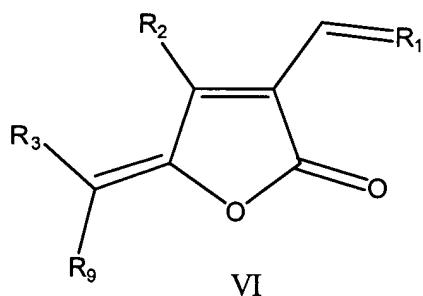
Claims 17-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): An antimicrobial, antiseptic and/or microbacterial static composition including at least one compound in accordance with claim 1 and a carrier with the proviso that the compound is not selected from (1'RS, 5Z)-3-(1'bromohexyl)-4-bromo-5-(bromomethylidene)-2(5H)-furanone, (1'RS) 3-(1'-bromohexyl)-5-(bromomethylidene)-2(5H)-furanone or combinations thereof.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An antifouling composition including at least one compound in accordance with claim 1 and a carrier with the proviso that the compound is not selected from (1'RS, 5Z)-3-(1'bromohexyl)-4-bromo-5-(bromomethylidene)-2(5H)-furanone, (1'RS) 3-(1'-bromohexyl)-5-(bromomethylidene)-2(5H)-furanone or combinations thereof.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): A compound of formula (VI):



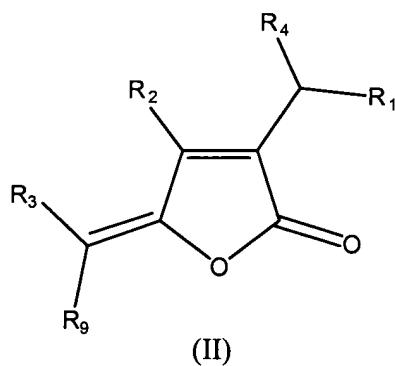
wherein R<sub>1</sub> is alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;  
 $R_9$  is halogen; and  
 wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

Claim 26 (original): A compound according to claim 25 which is 4-Bromo-5-(bromomethylene)-3-(1-butenyl)-2(5H)-furanone.

Claims 27-49 (canceled)

Claim 50 (currently amended): A compound according to formula (II):



wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen,  $C_4-C_{25}$  alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

$R_9$  is halogen;

$R_4$  is selected from halogen, amine, azide, hydroxyl, thiol, or hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic-alkyl, alkoxy, mercaptoalkylalkenyl, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl,  $OC(O)R_{11}$ ,  $SC(O)R_{11}$ ,  $OS(O)R_{11}$ ,  $OS(O)_2R_{11}$ ,  $NHC(O)R_{11}$ ,  $OC(O)NHR_{11}$ , or  $=O$ ; and

$R_{11}$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

wherein each substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and either hydrophobic, or hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

provided that:

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H or Br, and  $R$  is Br, then  $R_4$  is other than H,  $OC(O)CH_3$  or OH;

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H,  $R_9$  is I, then  $R_4$  is other than  $OC(O)CH_3$  or OH;

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  is H,  $R_9$  is Cl, then  $R_4$  is other than OH;

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is H,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  are Br, then  $R_4$  is other than H; and

when  $R_4$  is propyl,  $R_2$  is Br,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  are Cl, then  $R_4$  is other than H.